

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 058179
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TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: JA, ECOSOC, UN, EAID

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF UN SUBJECTS WITH JAPANESE MINISTER

1. DURING INITIAL COURTESY CALL BY JAPANESE MINISTER NISHIDA ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS MAYNES MARCH 14, SUBJECTS OF JAPANESE MEMBERSHIP IN ECOSOC, US ATTITUDE TOWARDS UNITED NATIONS, AND FUTURE ODA CONTRIBUTIONS OF JAPAN AND US WERE DISCUSSED.

2. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR HAD ALREADY SENT DEPARTMENT A REQUEST TO SUPPORT JAPAN'S CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP IN ECOSOC WHEN ELECTIONS HELD BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS FALL. WHEN NISHIDA RAISED SUBJECT, MAYNES RESPONDED THAT US WOULD LIKE TO SEE JAPAN REPRESENTED IN ECOSOC AND HOPED VERY MUCH THAT JAPAN'S CANDIDACY WILL BE ENDORSED BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 058179

ASIAN GROUP. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT US WOULD FAVOR JAPAN'S CANDIDACY IF ASIAN GROUP IS UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ENDORSEMENT. A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST WAS GIVEN TO NISHIDA.

3. IN RESPONSE TO NISHIDA'S QUESTIONS REGARDING THE EXTENT OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED

NATIONS, MAYNES SAID THAT ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE UN IS STRONG AND CONSTRUCTIVE AND THAT IT IS DETERMINED TO USE THE UN SYSTEM IN A CREATIVE MANNER. THE POSITIONS WHICH IT HAS ALREADY TAKEN REGARDING A UN UNIVERSITY AND AN INCREASED US CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNDP ARE EVIDENCE OF THIS, AS WELL AS PRESIDENT CARTER'S FORTHCOMING ADDRESS TO THE UN.

4. MAYNES RAISED THE ISSUE OF OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA), POINTING OUT THAT THE US, JAPAN AND THE FRG ARE WELL BELOW THE OECD AVERAGE IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE OF GNP. HE ASKED WHETHER THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT JAPAN MAY SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE ITS ODA PERCENTAGE IN THE FUTURE. THE GIST OF NISHIDA'S REPLY WAS THAT PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA IS SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM THAT JAPAN IS GETTING A "FREE RIDE" BECAUSE OF ITS LOW DEFENSE SPENDING AND THAT HE WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO SEE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE. THE DIET IS ALSO FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS THE PROSPECT OF A RAPID INCREASE. NISHIDA MENTIONED THAT JAPAN WILL PROBABLY HAVE AN ODA PERCENTAGE OF .28 OR .29 FOR THIS YEAR. MAYNES SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY VANCE ARE BOTH INTERESTED IN SIGNIFICANT ODA INCREASES FOR THE US, BUT THAT CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES ON THE SUBJECT COULD DEPEND PARTLY ON WHAT OUR MAJOR ALLIES WERE DOING.

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PAGE 03 STATE 058179

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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